

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope,
comprising:

~~a connector through which a motion image is inputted;~~

~~a memory in which an image of the motion image inputted through the
connector, which constructs one frame, is stored as a still image;~~

~~a display device on which the image is displayed;~~

~~an image signal switching circuit for switching the motion image inputted
through the connector and the still image read from the memory, and outputting a selected one
to the display device;~~

~~an operation section including a freeze button for instructing the image signal
switching circuit to switch an freezing a motion image to be displayed on the display device,
and a recording button for instructing start of image recording; and~~

~~a recording control circuit [[for,]] including:~~

~~a function which is set to a motion image recording mode for recording the
motion image when the operation section instructs to switch an the motion image to be is
displayed on the display device, and records the motion image onto a recording medium when
image recording is instructed using the recording button of the operation section;~~

~~a function for switching the setting from the motion image recording mode to a
still image recording mode for recording a still image when the motion image displayed on
the display device is frozen using the freeze button; and~~

~~a function for recording the still image onto the recording medium in the still
image recording mode when image recording is instructed using the recording button of the~~

~~operation section in a state where the motion image displayed on the display device is frozen using the freeze button if an image displayed on the display device is switched to the still image by the image signal switching circuit, setting the image recording mode to a still image recording mode interlockingly with the display of the still image, and if an image displayed on the display device is switched to the motion image by the image signal switching circuit, setting the image recording mode to a motion image recording mode interlockingly with the display of the motion image; and~~

~~a recording processing circuit for, when the operation section instructs image recording, if an image displayed on the display device is switched to the still image by the image signal switching circuit, recording the still image in the still image recording mode onto a predetermined recording medium, and if an image displayed on the display device is switched to the motion image by the image signal switching circuit, recording the motion image in the motion image recording mode onto the predetermined recording medium.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the ~~recording~~ control circuit includes an information memory in ~~which~~ for storing switching information on the displayed indicating whether an image displayed on ~~outputted to~~ the display device when the motion image displayed on the display device is frozen using the freeze button, and the control circuit judges whether a selected state is via the image signal switching circuit is a the still image or [[a]] the motion image by referring to the switching information stored in the information memory is stored; and the recording control circuit automatically determines a recording mode of recording processing

by the recording processing circuit by referring to the information stored in the information memory indicating whether a still image or a motion image when the operation section instructs image recording.

5. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope according to claim 1, ~~wherein: the recording processing circuit includes~~ further comprising a motion image compressing processing circuit that compresses ~~[[a]] the~~ motion image, and a still image compressing processing circuit that compresses ~~[[a]] the still image[;]], wherein~~ the control circuit performs image recording by and the recording processing circuit ~~compresses~~ compressing the motion image or the still image according to the displayed image displayed on the display device ~~a recording mode set by the recording control circuit.~~

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope according to claim 1, further comprising a graphic processor for producing graphic image data in response to an instruction from the ~~recording~~ control circuit, wherein, when the motion image displayed on the display device is frozen using the freeze button, an ~~[[the]]~~ image signal of the still image displayed on the display device is superimposed to switching circuit ~~outputs~~ graphic image data generated in the graphic processor and outputted to the display device.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope according to claim 1, further comprising a voice recording processing circuit that records a voice signal.

15. (Currently Amended) An image recording apparatus for an endoscope according to claim 1, wherein the remaining storage capacity of the recording medium, which is available for storage of information, is detected to be indicated.

16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An image recording method for an endoscope, of to be implemented in an image recording apparatus which is set to a motion image recording mode for recording a motion image when the motion image is displayed on a display device, and which records the motion image onto a recording medium in the motion image recording mode when image recording is instructed using a recording button of an operation section including a freeze button for freezing the motion image displayed on the display device and the recording button for instructing start of image recording having the ability to select one of a motion image and a still image, the selection performed by an image selecting circuit to output the selected image to a display device, the image recording method comprising:

a step for freezing the motion image using the freeze button of the operation section and outputting the frozen images;

a step for switching the setting from the motion image recording mode to a still image recording mode for recording a still image when the motion image displayed on the display device is frozen using the freeze button; and

a step for recording the still image onto the recording medium when image recording is instructed using the recording button of the operation section in a state where the motion image displayed on the display device is frozen using the freeze button.

a recording starting step of instructing start of image recording;

~~a displayed image judging step for judging whether an image selected by the image selecting circuit and displayed on the display device is the still image or the motion image;~~

~~a recording mode setting step for, if the displayed image judging step judges that the image displayed on the displayed device is the still image, setting the image recording mode to a still image recording mode interlockingly with the display of the still image, and if the displayed image judging step judges that the image displayed on the display device is the motion image, setting the image recording mode to a motion image recording mode interlockingly with the display of the motion image; and~~

~~a recording processing step of recording an image displayed on the display device onto a recording medium according to the result of setting at the recording mode setting step.~~

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An image recording method for an endoscope according to claim 21, further comprising a still image updating step of, when ~~[[the]]~~ a displayed image on the display device is judged to have been switched to ~~[[be]]~~ the motion image ~~at the displayed image judging step~~, updating the still image, and ~~[[a]]~~ the still image recording step of setting ~~[[the]]~~ an image recording mode to ~~[[a]]~~ the still image recording mode for recording the still image updated.

24-34. (Canceled)